

his birth. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and mother Angela de La Cruz.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following statement appear in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD behind the votes for Wednesday, July 7, 2004: unfortunately, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present for the recorded Roll Call votes number 326 through number 335, I would have voted in the following way:

No. 326—H. Con. Res. 410—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended Recognizing the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. I would have voted "yes."

No. 327—H. Con. Res. 257—Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree Expressing the sense of Congress that the President should posthumously award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Harry W. Colmery. I would have voted "yes."

No. 328—On agreeing to the Manzullo, Velazquez, Serrano amendment to provide \$79.1 million for the Small Business 7(a) loan program, the amount provided last year, to finance more than \$13 billion in small business loans. I would have voted in favor of the amendment.

No. 329—On agreeing to the Flake (Arizona) Amendment prohibiting use of funds to implement new restrictions on gift parcels and other items allowed for travellers to Cuba. I would have voted "yes."

No. 330—On agreeing to the Weiner Amendment increasing COPS funding by \$107 million and offsets that funding by cutting funding for the Census. I would have voted "yes."

No. 331—On agreeing to the Hefley Amendment eliminating funding for the re-engineering design process for the 2010 short-form only Census. I would have voted "no."

No. 332—On agreeing to the Kucinich amendment on funding for the Commerce Department to expand the membership of the President's "Manufacturing Council." I would have voted "yes."

No. 333—On agreeing to the Paul of Texas amendment No. 9. I would have voted "no."

No. 334—On agreeing to the Farr of California amendment prohibiting funds from being used to prevent states from implementing state laws authorizing the use of medical marijuana. I would have voted "yes."

No. 335—On agreeing to the Paul of Texas amendment No. 10. I would have voted "no."

A TRIBUTE TO ST. BLASÉ "KC" CHARLES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of St. Blasé "KC" Charles in recognition of his significant cultural and economic development contributions to the community.

St. Blasé Charles, better known as KC, hails from the twin island Nation of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean. He has been an entertainer for more than 30 years. Famous for his Caribbean-style rendition of the "father of soul," Mr. James Brown, KC is also affectionately known as the "Local James Brown" throughout the entertainment circles in North America and members of his international fan club. Along with his own musical group, the International Band, KC has performed at major events and famous places including the West Indian Labor Day Parade in Brooklyn, the Harlem Day Parade, Manhattan's Annual Halloween Parade, the MGM and Sahara casino in Las Vegas, and the Royal Caribbean and Carnival cruises, just to name a few.

KC's summer concerts were launched in 1989 at his garage at East 87th Street in East Flatbush, Brooklyn where he held a huge block party on Memorial Day. In order to accommodate the growing crowd that came to the yearly event, in 1991, KC moved his Caribbean style street festival to Ditmas Avenue near his East 87th Street garage. The event covered ten blocks. The event continued at Ditmas Avenue until 1996, when KC took his show and a loyal following of thousands to its new home on Atlantic Avenue.

Spanning 10,000 square feet and a maximum occupancy of 4,300, the Hideaway is a spacious outdoor venue located at 2494 Atlantic, in an industrial section of Brooklyn. Since 1998, the Hideaway, which is owned and managed by KC, has been hosting its hallmark Summer Concert Series featuring today's leading soca, calypso, and reggae musical acts from around the Caribbean and here in the United States. Along with top performers, the Hideaway showcases some of the most popular Caribbean-American DJs. It is also equipped with a fully licensed bar, a professional sized stage, and an elevated VIP lounge where performing artist and special guests can view and enjoy the shows.

KC's Hideaway has become a major attraction for thousands of Caribbean music lovers from around the world who are drawn to Brooklyn, the Caribbean Capital of the United States, year after year to celebrate the West Indian Labor Day Carnival season, which begins in May. The venue stages around 66 shows a year and the number of concertgoers has steadily increased over the past three years. The concert grew from an audience of about 80,000 for the season in 1998, to approximately 165,000 for this season.

Mr. Speaker, St. Blasé "KC" Charles has developed and created a major cultural event in his community, which has brought thousands of people to Brooklyn each year to celebrate their Caribbean heritage. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES L. FLINN, III

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James L. Flinn, III upon his retirement after thirty-five years of outstanding civil service for the United States Army, the major-

ity of which he served at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.

An Alabama native, Jim first entered the civil service in 1969 after receiving a Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and Management from the University of Alabama. Through many challenging and diverse assignments, Jim has distinguished himself by his knowledge and ability to consistently lead others. He has been a constant and stabilizing presence at Redstone and has helped ensure Redstone's high level support of the warfighter.

Mr. Speaker, throughout Jim's remarkable career his hard work and dedication have been an inspiration for others and he has been recognized by his peers through numerous honors and awards. In 2003, he was awarded the Department of the Army Senior Executive Service Distinguished Presidential Rank Award, which is the highest honor a public sector employee can receive. In addition, in 1993 and 1998 he received the DA SES Meritorious Presidential Rank Award and most recently, he was awarded the 2004 National Defense Industrial Association Defense Management Award. Jim also serves on numerous boards and holds many leadership positions in North Alabama. Most recently, he was appointed by the Governor of Alabama to the Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission, which oversees the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of North Alabama, I congratulate James L. Flinn on his thirty-five years of service to our country and wish him well in his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PATRINE RICE

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 8, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand and recognize the selflessness of Patrine Rice of Grand Junction, Colorado. She has committed herself to the community, which is evident through her accomplished record as a volunteer. It is my pleasure to acknowledge Patrine's efforts to make her neighborhood stronger before this body of Congress and this nation today.

Patrine's career as a volunteer began when she moved to Grand Junction in 1986. Ever since, she has shelved books for six to eight hours per week at the Mesa County Public Library. Her work at the library is a natural extension of her years spent as a teacher of foreign language. Nearly eighty years old, self sufficiency would satisfy most at that distinguished age, but not Patrine. In addition to taking care of her yard and her garden, she finds time to dedicate herself to others. Through a program called "Support Our Seniors," she drives other seniors requiring transportation to their destinations. In acknowledgment of her work as a volunteer in her area, she was recently honored with the "Above and Beyond Award" by the Mesa County Department of Human Services and the League of Women Voters.

Mr. Speaker, Patrine Rice's fondness for helping others contributes significantly to make Grand Junction a cohesive community. This